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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

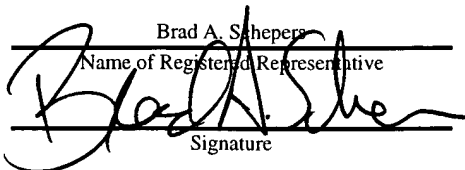
In re patent application of:	)	Before the Examiner:
Thuan Pham	)	Zeinab E. El-Arini
	)	
Application Serial No. 09/942,317	)	Group Art Unit 1746
	)	
Filed August 29, 2001	)	Our Ref.: 8016-548
	)	
APPARATUS AND METHOD	)	January 7, 2005
FOR CLEANING A PROBE TIP	)	

**RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the non-final Office Action dated September 30, 2004, please enter and consider the following amendments and remarks. Applicant's attorney has requested in a separate paper that the date for responding to the non-final Office Action be extended one (1) month, up to and including January 30, 2004. The statutory fee of \$120.00 under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(a) for this extension request is enclosed herewith. Additionally, please provide any necessary extensions of time and charge any additional fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include payment of issue fees.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:	
January 7, 2004	_____
Date of Deposit	_____
Brad A. Schepers	_____
Name of Registered Representative	_____
	_____
Signature	_____
January 7, 2004	_____
Date of Signature	_____

### **INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Claims 2-8, 10-17, 19, 20 and 22-30 were pending for the non-final Office Action dated September 30, 2004. Claim 4 has been amended via this Response to the non-final Office Action. Claims 20 and 25 have also been amended to more particularly point out the subject matter of the invention. In view of the following amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are hereby requested.